United Nations A/HRC/PRST/25/1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 April 2014
English
Original: French

Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 10
Technical assistance and capacity-building

President's statement

PRST 25/1
Situation of human rights in Haiti

At the fifty-sixth meeting of the Human Rights Council, held on 28 March 2014, the President of the Council made the following statement:

"1. The Human Rights Council expresses its gratitude to the Independent Expert for his report on the situation of human rights in Haiti.[1] It takes note of the latest legal and political developments in Haiti, which have been marked by progress in terms of civil and political rights and of economic, social and cultural rights:

(a) The submission of the initial report of Haiti on the rights of persons with disabilities to the secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 20 March 2014;

(b) The recent decision of the Port-au-Prince Court of Appeals to order that further enquiries be undertaken in the case of former President for Life Jean-Claude Duvalier;

(c) The deposit, in December 2013, of the instrument of ratification of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in respect of Intercountry Adoption, which will enter into force for Haiti on 1 April 2014;

(d) The opening of an office to combat violence against women and girls on 27 November 2013 and the establishment of a parliamentary gender equity bureau on 2 December 2013;

(e) The establishment of an ad hoc committee to oversee and assess cases of prolonged pretrial detention on 30 October 2013;

(f) The accession, on 8 October 2013, to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which entered into force for Haiti on 8 January 2014;

[1] A/HRC/25/71.

GE.14-13666 (E) 230414 240414

1413666

Please recycle

(g) The implementation of the 400/100 Programme for the construction of 400 social housing units in 100 districts, which was executed with support from the Inter-American Development Bank, and the launch of the first phase of a programme for the construction of 3,000 social housing units on 16 May 2013;

(h) The establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee to coordinate and harmonize public human rights policies.

2. The Council welcomes the signature of the El Rancho Accord on 14 March 2014, which gives voice to the desire of Haitian political actors to move forward with the planning of elections and the consolidation of democracy in Haiti. To that end, the Council also welcomes the publication of the electoral law and the law on political parties, which pave the way for legislative and local elections to be held in late October 2014. The Council encourages the political authorities of Haiti to maintain their spirit of cooperation and to take swift action with a view to scheduling elections;

3. The Council welcomes the reaffirmation of the commitment of the Haitian authorities to improve the living conditions of Haitian women and men by, inter alia, devoting greater attention to respect for human rights. The Council also welcomes the priorities set out in that regard by the President of Haiti (known as the 'five Es' in French): ensuring the rule of law, education, the environment, employment and energy, along with the recent addition of elections to that list. It urges the Government of Haiti to pursue these priorities in a way that will produce concrete, sustainable results for the population of Haiti;

4. Within this context, the Council encourages the Government of Haiti to work to strengthen the rule of law by, inter alia, combating impunity, crime and its causes, and the use of prolonged pretrial detention so as to ensure the operation of public institutions and services and the enjoyment of all human rights;

5. The Council also encourages the Government of Haiti to strengthen national human rights institutions, particularly the Office of Citizen Protection, which the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights accredited with an A status on 4 December 2013 in recognition of its compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). The Council further encourages the authorities of Haiti to redouble their efforts to strengthen judicial institutions and to make them fully compatible with the commitments made by Haiti in relation to respect for human rights;

6. The Council urges the Government of Haiti to continue to adopt the necessary political and legal measures to safeguard the rights of members of vulnerable groups, including women, children, particularly child domestic workers, and persons with disabilities, to increase women's participation in political affairs and to continue to combat gender-based violence and discrimination;

7. The Council is aware of the many obstacles to development in Haiti and the difficulties which the population of Haiti and its leaders continue to encounter in the aftermath of the earthquake of 12 January 2010. It recognizes that families whose members were separated by the earthquake, including unaccompanied children and displaced persons in camps and outside the scope of the main rescue operations, are more vulnerable to human rights violations and that the full enjoyment of civil and political, economic, social and cultural human rights constitutes a factor in peace, stability and development in Haiti;

8. The Council encourages the international community as a whole and, in particular, international donors, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the group of countries known as the Friends of Haiti, specialized agencies of the United Nations and, in particular, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to step up their cooperation with the Haitian authorities with a view to the full realization of all human rights in Haiti;

9. The Council welcomes and approves the request of the Haitian authorities for a one-year extension of the mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, which concerns technical assistance and capacity-building;

10. The Council encourages the Independent Expert to continue to work with international institutions, donors and the international community to raise their awareness of the need to provide their expertise and appropriate resources to support the efforts of the Haitian authorities to rebuild the country and pursue sustainable development;

11. The Council also encourages the Independent Expert to continue to work with the Government of Haiti, non-governmental organizations of Haiti and civil society in Haiti. It invites the Government of Haiti to continue its active cooperation with civil society;

12. The Council invites the Independent Expert to assist the Government of Haiti in acting upon his own recommendations and those made by other special procedures, in particular those of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and on the right to non-discrimination in this context;[2]

13. The Council also invites the Independent Expert to submit his report on the situation of human rights in Haiti to the Council at its twenty-eighth session. It further invites him to undertake a mission to Haiti and to report on that mission to the Council at its twenty-eighth session."

---

[2] See A/HRC/25/54.

United Nations A/HRC/PRST/25/2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
16 April 2014

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Twenty-fifth session
Agenda item 1
Organizational and procedural matters

Statement by the President

PRST 25/2.
Situation of human rights in South Sudan

At the 56th meeting, held on 28 March 2014, the President of the Human Rights Council read out the following statement:

"The Human Rights Council:

1. Expresses deep concern at and deplores the situation of human rights resulting from the crisis and violence that broke out in mid-December 2013 in South Sudan;

2. Acknowledges the relevant communiqués and resolutions issued by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the African Union and the United Nations, and the statements made by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in which they urged the parties to the conflict to protect the civilian population from violence and to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. Calls upon the parties to the conflict to put an end to all violations and abuses of human rights, and violations of international humanitarian law, including attacks against and killings of civilians, the displacement of populations and sexual and gender-based violence, and to implement the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and its Implementation Modalities, as well as to show their political will and commitment to end the conflict through inclusive dialogue, reconciliation and peacebuilding;

4. Expresses support for the democratically elected Government of South Sudan, encourages it to investigate the root causes of the crisis and the violence that broke out in mid-December 2013, and reiterates that all perpetrators of atrocities must be held accountable;

5. Commends the leading role played by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in mediating between the parties to the conflict in

signing the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement and the formation of a monitoring and verification mechanism;

6. Calls upon the international community, United Nations mechanisms and the Office of the High Commissioner to support the efforts of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development;

7. Urges the parties to the conflict to allow immediate and full access to humanitarian assistance to all populations in need of assistance, in accordance with humanitarian principles, to facilitate the efforts of humanitarian agencies to address the critical humanitarian crisis, and to explore durable solutions for the refugees and internally displaced persons, in collaboration and coordination with local and international humanitarian organizations;

8. Welcomes the establishment by the African Union of a commission of inquiry for South Sudan as an important step towards ensuring accountability and preventing the recurrence of such abuses;

9. Calls upon the Government of South Sudan to cooperate fully with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan in accordance with the Status of Forces Agreement signed in August 2011;

10. Encourages the United Nations Mission in South Sudan to carry out regular public reporting on the human rights situation in the country, calls upon the Mission to enhance consultation with the Government of South Sudan on such reporting, welcomes the release of the Mission's interim report and looks forward to the public release of its more comprehensive report;

11. Stresses the importance of the continued attention of the Human Rights Council to this human rights situation, including through the interim report of the High Commissioner, to be submitted to the Council at its twenty-sixth session, in accordance with Council resolution 23/24 of 14 June 2013;

12. Encourages the Government of South Sudan to continue to engage with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner on this matter."